

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/500,520

Examiner

Mark Connolly

Applicant(s)

KESSELS ET AL.

Art Unit

2115

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the application being filed 6/29/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-10 are allowed.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1:

On line 5 please replace "having and" with "having an"

Claim 10:

On line 14 please replace "having and" with "having an"

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
4. Jacobson et al., U.S. Pat. No. 7065665 teaches a handshaking protocol for transmitting data between pipelines as is done in GALS systems [col. 4 lines 18-25 and col. 6 line 55 – col. 7 line 14].
5. Yasukawa et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6425088 teaches clocking a data transfer between asynchronous circuits using a handshaking method [col. 1 lines 25-55].

6. Muttersbach et al., Practical Design of Globally-Asynchronous Locally-Synchronous Systems¹ teaches a globally-asynchronous locally-synchronous (GALS) system comprising a delay circuit ensuring a clock period that is long enough to transfer information between storage elements of the asynchronous systems and further comprising a handshake circuit for controlling the timing of the transfer [pages 3-6].
7. Zhuang et al., An Asynchronous Wrapper with Novel Handshake Circuits for GALS Systems teaches a GALS system comprising a delay circuit ensuring a clock period that is long enough to transfer information between storage elements of the asynchronous systems and further comprising a handshake circuit for controlling the timing of the transfer [page 1524].
8. Villiger et al., Self-timed Ring for Globally-Asynchronous Locally-Synchronous Systems teaches a GALS system comprising a delay circuit ensuring a clock period that is long enough to transfer information between storage elements of the asynchronous systems and further comprising a handshake circuit for controlling the timing of the transfer [pages 1 and 3].
9. The prior art of record does not explicitly teach or suggest individually or in combination at least part of the handshake signals during a handshake transaction are timed by traveling through the delay circuit and are applied to the clock input to clock the locally synchronous circuit module.
10. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

¹ As cited by applicant in the specification.

Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Connolly whose telephone number is (571) 272-3666. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8AM-5PM (except every first Friday).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas C. Lee can be reached on (571) 272-3667. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Mark Connolly
Examiner
Art Unit 2115

mc
October 27, 2006



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PRIMARY EXAMINER